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The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An engine control system in a vehicle comprising:
an internal combustion engine;
an electronic throttle controlling air flow to said internal combustion engine;
a controller controlling the position of said electronic throttle;
an accelerator pedal having an accelerator pedal sensor which generates a signal to said controller; [and]

wherein said controller computes a rate of change for said accelerator pedal and actuates said electronic throttle to a desired position based upon said rate of change for said accelerator pedal; and

wherein said predicted rate of change for said accelerator pedal is based upon at least a spring force of said accelerator pedal.

2. (original) The engine control system of Claim 1 wherein said rate of change for said accelerator pedal comprises a rate of position change.

3. (original) The engine control system of Claim 1 wherein rate of change for said accelerator pedal comprises a rate of force change.

4. (original) The engine control system of Claim 1 wherein said internal combustion engine is a gasoline engine.

5. (original) The engine control system of Claim 1 wherein said accelerator pedal sensor is a linear encoder.

6. (original) The engine control system of Claim 1 wherein said accelerator pedal sensor is a potentiometer.

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7. (original) The engine control system of Claim 1 wherein said accelerator pedal sensor is a strain gauge.

8. cancelled

9. cancelled

10. (currently amended) An engine control system in a vehicle comprising:
an internal combustion engine;
a throttle controlling air flow to said internal combustion engine;
a controller controlling the position of said electronic throttle;
an accelerator pedal having an accelerator pedal sensor which generates a signal to said controller; [and]

wherein said controller predicts a rate of change for said accelerator pedal and actuates said electronic throttle to a desired position based upon said predicted rate of change for said accelerator pedal; and

wherein said predicted rate of change for said accelerator pedal is based upon at least a spring force of said accelerator pedal.

11. (original) The engine control system of Claim 10 wherein said rate of change for said accelerator pedal comprises a rate of position change.

12. (original) The engine control system of Claim 10 wherein said rate of change for said accelerator pedal comprises a rate of force change.

13. (original) The engine control system of Claim 10 wherein said internal combustion engine is a gasoline engine.

14. (original) The engine control system of Claim 10 wherein said accelerator pedal sensor is a linear encoder.

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15. (original)The engine control system of Claim 10 wherein said accelerator pedal sensor is a potentiometer.

16. (new) The engine control system of Claim 10 wherein said predicted rate of change is based on the mass of said accelerator pedal.